



Tri-Community Wildlife Committee Agenda

Date: Wednesday, April 2nd, 2025

Time: 6:00 p.m.

**City of the Village of Douglas, Michigan/City Hall-Council Chambers
87. W. Center Street, Douglas, Michigan**

Committee's Mission Statement: Our mission is to discover appropriate ways to maintain a healthy balance in the wildlife populations of our communities and make recommendations to the City of Douglas, Saugatuck Township, and the City of Saugatuck.

Zoom Link Information:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89315657465>

Meeting ID: 893 1565 7465

1. Call to Order (Chair)

2. Roll Call (City Clerk)

3. Approve the Agenda (Voice Vote)

4. Approve the meeting minutes for March 5th, 2025 (Voice Vote)

5. New Business:

A. Approve a resolution, outlining recommended next steps for implementing controlled deer hunts as a management tool in the City of Douglas, City of Saugatuck, and Saugatuck Township. (Voice Vote)

**** (If approved, the resolution will be forwarded to the City Councils of Douglas and Saugatuck and the Saugatuck Township Board for their consideration and potential adoption.) ****

B. Approve the appointment of up to four members of the Tri-Community Wildlife Committee to serve on an advisory committee. (Voice Vote)

6. Written Communication (Receive and File)

7. Public Communication (Limited to 3 minutes)

8. Douglas City Manager/Committee Liaison Comments

9. Committee Member Comments

10. Adjournment

- Motion to adjourn the meeting

**Please Note – The City of the Village of Douglas (the “City”) is subject to the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. Individuals with disabilities who plan to attend this meeting and who require certain accommodations in order to allow them to observe and/or participate in this meeting, or who have questions regarding the accessibility of this meeting or the facilities, are requested to contact Laura Kasper, City Clerk, at (269) 857-1438, or clerk@douglasmi.gov to allow the City to make reasonable accommodations for those persons.
CITY OF THE VILLAGE OF DOUGLAS, ALLEGAN COUNTY, MICHIGAN**



Tri-Community Wildlife Committee Minutes

Date: Wednesday, March 5th, 2025

Time: 6:00 p.m.

**City of the Village of Douglas, Michigan/City Hall-Council Chambers
87. W. Center Street, Douglas, Michigan**

Committee's Mission Statement: Our mission is to discover appropriate ways to maintain a healthy balance in the wildlife populations of our communities and make recommendations to the City of Douglas, Saugatuck Township, and the City of Saugatuck.

1. Call to Order: By Neal Seabert

2. Roll Call: By Deputy City Clerk Dawn Raza

Present: Scott Dean, Keith Walker, Timothy Smith, Neal Seabert, Stacey Aldrich, Tony Schippa, Beth Ramsson

Absent: David Ignasiak, Tammy Cunnion

3. Approve the Agenda

Motion by Aldrich, seconded by Dean, to approve the agenda with the addition of adding Mike Richardson from the MDNR to give his input regarding the different options for deer management to the agenda. – Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

4. Approve the meeting minutes for February 5th, 2025

Motion by Dean, seconded by Schippa, to approve the February 5, 2025, meeting minutes. – Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

5. New Business:

A. Discuss the results of the 2024-2025 Wildlife "Deer" Survey

- Lethal/Non-Lethal Options Results/Immediate Action (attachment A)
- City/Township Ordinances (Firearms, Hunting) (attachments B, C, D)
- Hunting on Parks & Recreation Properties Example Ottawa County (attachment E)
- Laketown Township Parks & Recreation Archery Deer Hunting Program (attachment F)
- Managing Deer Within Suburban Communities Document (attachment G)
- City Council/Township Board Committee Recommendations/Timelines

6. Written Communication

- Keith Walker-Draft Resolution

7. Public Communication: Members of the public were present, comments were made.

8. City/Township Manager Comments: City Manager Nocerini will work on the adjustments to the Resolution, thanked the Chief, DPW, Ben from the Allegan County Sheriff's Office for attending and thanked the Committee for their hard work.

9. Committee Member Comments: Final comments were heard from Schippa, Dean and Seabert.

10. Adjournment

- *Motion by Dean, seconded by Smith, to adjourn the meeting*



TO: Tri-Community Wildlife Committee

FROM: Lisa Nocerini, City Manager/Liaison to the Committee

DATE: April 2nd, 2025

SUBJECT: Request for Passage of Resolution on Controlled Deer Hunt
Recommendations

As the Tri-Community Wildlife Committee continues to evaluate responsible strategies for managing the local deer population, the next step is to formalize our recommendations in a resolution for consideration by the governing bodies of Douglas, Saugatuck, and Saugatuck Township.

At our next meeting, the committee will be asked to approve a resolution outlining our recommended next steps for controlled deer hunts. Once passed, this resolution will be sent to the City Councils of Douglas and Saugatuck and the Saugatuck Township Board for review and potential adoption.

This resolution will serve as an official statement of our findings and recommendations, helping guide policy decisions on deer management within the Tri-Community area. Your support in reviewing and passing this resolution is critical to ensuring a well-coordinated and effective approach moving forward.

The resolution has been approved by the attorney's in each community.

Sample Motion: Approve a resolution, outlining recommended next steps for implementing controlled deer hunts as a management tool in the City of Douglas, City of Saugatuck, and Saugatuck Township

TRI-COMMUNITY WILDLIFE COMMITTEE

RECOMMENDED RESOLUTION TO THE CITY OF DOUGLAS CITY COUNCIL; CITY OF SAUGATUCK CITY COUNCIL; AND SAUGATUCK TOWNSHIP

WHEREAS, the Tri-Community Wildlife Committee consists of representatives from the City of the Village of Douglas, the City of Saugatuck, and Saugatuck Township; and

WHEREAS, based on observations and community surveys, the Tri-Community Wildlife Committee has determined that there is a substantial overpopulation of deer within all three communities; and

WHEREAS, the Tri-Community Wildlife Committee recommends that the City of the Village of Douglas, the City of Saugatuck, and Saugatuck Township issue permits and facilitate controlled deer hunts using “Licensed Nuisance Wildlife Control Operators” (sharpshooters) authorized by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR); and

WHEREAS, such hunts should take place with the permission of private landowners, including Homeowner Associations (HOAs), within their jurisdictions, with all associated costs and liabilities borne by the landowner(s) and/or HOA until the Tri-Community Wildlife Committee determines that the deer population has been brought under control; and

WHEREAS, the Tri-Community Wildlife Committee further recommends that each municipality facilitate and direct controlled deer hunts on publicly owned lands within their jurisdiction, subject to budgetary constraints, using Licensed Nuisance Wildlife Control Operators (sharpshooters) authorized by the MDNR until the Committee determines the deer population is under control; and

WHEREAS, to further manage the deer population, the Tri-Community Wildlife Committee recommends that the City of the Village of Douglas, the City of Saugatuck, and Saugatuck Township revise their existing ordinances to permit the discharge of archery equipment without a special permit, thereby allowing bow hunting of deer during the fall hunting season in accordance with all applicable State of Michigan hunting regulations; and

WHEREAS, while these controlled hunts may provide temporary relief for landowners facing immediate issues, they are not a long-term solution to the deer overpopulation problem; and

WHEREAS, to monitor the effectiveness of population control measures, the Tri-Community Wildlife Committee has authorized an annual deer population census each March using drone technology to establish a baseline for future assessments; and

WHEREAS, through extensive research, the Tri-Community Wildlife Committee has determined that neither deer contraception nor relocation programs are currently viable due to cost and logistical constraints.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City of the Village of Douglas, the City of Saugatuck, and Saugatuck Township formally recognize the recommendations of the Tri-Community Wildlife Committee and commit to working collaboratively to implement appropriate measures to manage the deer population, including but not limited to controlled hunts, ordinance revisions, and continued monitoring efforts; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that each municipality will endeavor to take the necessary steps to enact policies, allocate resources where feasible, and engage with relevant stakeholders to ensure the success of deer population management efforts in the best interest of public safety, ecological balance, and community well-being.



TO: Tri-Community Wildlife Committee

FROM: Lisa Nocerini, City Manager/Liaison to the Committee

DATE: April 2nd, 2025

SUBJECT: Tri-Community Wildlife Advisory Committee Appointments for Controlled Hunt Guidelines & Application Development

As we continue developing a responsible plan for managing the local deer population, the Tri-Community Wildlife Committee will be forming a working group to focus on:

- Creating recommended guidelines for controlled hunts
- Assisting in the development of controlled hunt applications
- Researching best practices and regulatory considerations

At the April 2nd meeting, the Committee Chair will request volunteers to step up and dedicate time to this effort. This working group will meet between regularly scheduled committee meetings and present their recommendations at the next full committee meeting for review and consideration.

We encourage interested committee members to volunteer their time to ensure a well-researched and balanced approach to wildlife management. Your contributions are vital to the success of this initiative.

Thank you for your dedication to this important effort.

Sample Motion: *Approve the appointment of up to four members of the Tri-Community Wildlife Committee to serve on an advisory committee.*